

WCGS NEWS
MARCH 1996

At our last meeting, our Past President, Russell Tyson, was presented an engraved gavel in appreciation of his distinguished service, 1994-1995.

NEXT MEETING

Sunday March 17, at the Washington County Library. Doors open at 2:30; we convene at 3:00.

Programs Chairman Virginia Haire announces that Harry Lewis Thompson, Curator of the Port O' Plymouth Museum, will speak to us. We don't know exactly what Virginia and Harry have cooked up, but we can bet it'll be good!

THE JOURNAL

I regret to report that, in spite of our "blare of trumpets and ruffle of drums", articles for the CIVIL WAR READER II, due out in mid-April, are mighty slow coming in. The first go to our typist, Debbie Coker, early next week. We need the rest ASAP.

We try to confine our articles to the men and women of Washington and Tyrrell Counties (and our very close "neighbors"). We don't seek the celebrated "brass-hats".....unless their tale involves our folks. Lee and Sherman, Pettigrew and Jackson, all have their biographers. Our folks depend on us (don't you reckon?) to help them to a touch of immortality.

Tell us about your soldiers....regardless of the color of their uniforms or the initials on their belt buckles. Letters, photos, records..... we need them.

Document where you can, but don't forget your family lore. Tell us, as you were told, how the women and children coped while the men were away with the army. Tell us of the bitter-sweet homecomings, and of the consequences of homecoming not to be.

So much to tell.

So little time!

THE VAILS OF THE ALBEMARLE

A SYNOPSIS: BY VERNON EVERETT

The WCGS was recently presented a copy of the above mentioned book compiled by Roy A. Vail, Vail Hope Ellis, and Ellen Vail Pace. Anyone with ties to the Vail family should certainly take a look.

The Vails of the Albemarle descended from Jeremiah Vail, born 1619 in Scotland and migrated to the New England area about 1639. Jeremiah Vail, born 1683, moved south to Old Albemarle County circa 1702. He purchased the Gilliam Patent near Mulberry Hill, on the North Shore of Albemarle Sound, from Edward and Sarah Smithwick.

Jeremiah married Mary Lillington Swannin 1707. She was the widow of Samuel Swann, grandson of Major Samuel Swann, who became the Secretary of State of North Carolina about 1700. Mary was the daughter of Major Alexander Lillington and Elizabeth Cooke. Jeremiah and Mary were blessed with eight children and raised Mary's son, Samuel, by her first marriage.

The Vails of Washington County descended from their son, General Edward Vail, ... to Thomas Vail...to Abner Nash Vail, Sr., who came to Washington County in the early 1800's, and who died near Westover in 1842. Westover is about half-way between Plymouth and Mackeys on the old Mackey's Ferry Road, now route N.C. 308.

Abner Nash Vail, Jr. was born near Westover in 1819, and died there in 1896. Thomas O. Vail, son of Abner Jr. and Sarah Tarkenton, was born in 1849. He married Martha W. Skiles, and died 1891. Thomas A., son of Thomas O., was born in 1876, married Lucia D. Clifton, and died in 1900.

The "Gothic" farmhouse at Westover was built by Abner Nash Vail, Sr. The Vails were attorneys, legislators, merchants, sawmill owners, ship captains, and ship owners.

The Vails have been prominent in the Albemarle for almost 300 years.

We have not yet presented THE VAILS OF THE ALBEMARLE to the Washington County Library, in order to give our members chance to read it at home. Once "shelved", it will be available for research only within the Library. Local members wishing to "borrow" it for a few days should contact Vernon Everett or Ed Norman.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome:

Jerry L. Hardison, Cherryville, NC.

Jerry, with roots in Martin and Washington Counties, is researching HARDISON and BROWNING. See his QUERY, herein.

Jean Spruill Boudreaux, Greenville, NC.

Researching PATRICK, SPRUILL, TARKINGTON, CHAPLIN, STEALEY(STEELY, etc.), and FURLOUGH.

STANDING COMMITTEES

We plan a joint meeting of our newly-formed committees for Wednesday March 13. The agenda will include:

- Further definition of the duties of the several committees, i.e., Publicity & Programs, Publication & Marketing, and Library.
- Recommendations of specific titles of books and microfilm to be bought with a portion of our Grant funds.
- Strategy for the more efficient marketing of our publications.

Ms. MILLS TELLS IT LIKE IT IS

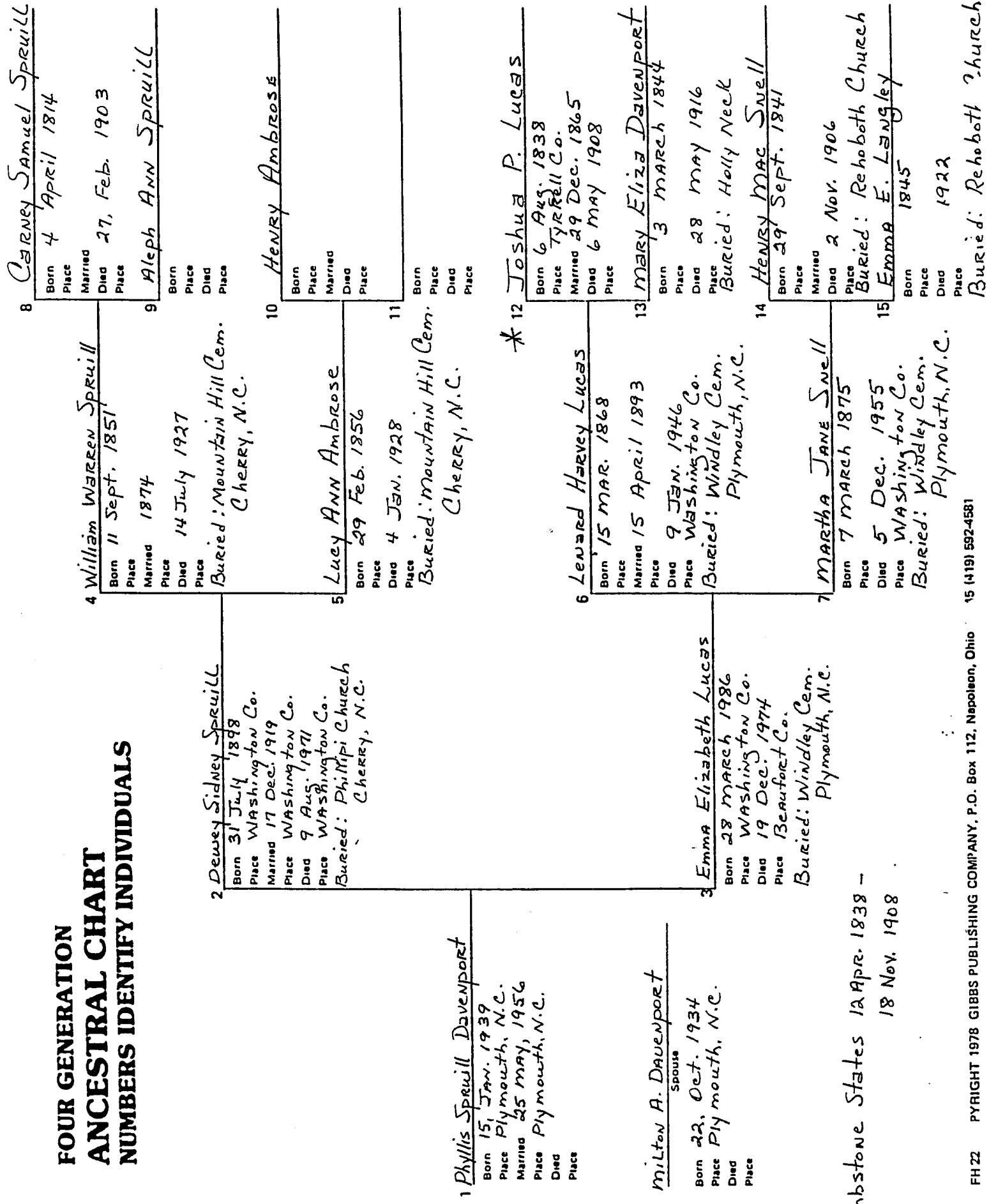
The July 23, '95 edition of The Daily Reflector(Greenville, NC) carried an article, "Pieces of the Past", by Will Anderson, on the vigorous Pitt County Family Researchers. Mr Anderson quotes Clarice Mills, the Researcher's secretary, as saying "You definately have to be broadminded. If illegitimacy bothers you, don't get into genealogy".

How right you are, Ms. Mills! We bet you've read lots of old County Court minutes and bastard bonds, and know what an intriguing source of genealogical information they are. We sure won't find the likes in Hathaway, will we?

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

We publish, herein, the first Membership Roster of 1996. Hereafter, new members, and their addresses, will be announced monthly. A new, complete, roster will be printed in about six months.

FOUR GENERATION ANCESTRAL CHART NUMBERS IDENTIFY INDIVIDUALS



* Tombstone States 12 Apr. 1838 -
 18 Nov. 1908

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Washington, NC 27889-1089

Teresa Ann Dwyer-Kelley
5359 Macwood Drive,
Dale City, VA 22103

APOLOGIES

As we "go to press", I find that the above Roster
isn't Complete.

To Ronnie Comstock, M/M Atwood Davenport, Joan
Boudreaux, Jerry L. Hardison, and anyone else
"missed", your names and addresses will be
printed in the April NEWS.

Ed.

QUERIES

Looking for any information on the parents of Zilphia Ann Woodard. Zilphia was born 18 Sept. 1834, married William N. Swain in Washington County Sept. 1849. Was residing in Tyrrell County in 1850. Later moved to Beaufort County (c. 1853), where she died 7 May 1919 after raising seven children. Zilphia had at least one brother, John D. Woodard (b. November 1818) who was living with her in 1900. Will greatly appreciate any leads.

D.L. Sullivan. 9425 Mauck Ct., Fairfax, VA 22032.

Need any information on ancestors of John H. Hardison. b. May 10, 1835, m. Apr. 14, 1867, d. Feb. 27, 1903 Dardens, Martin County. John H. was father of John Leonard Hardison (1871-1935).

Dr. Jerry L. Hardison. 1514 Shelby Hwy., Cherryville, NC 28021.

Looking for parents of Jordan Spruill. b. abt. 1806, d. bef. 1880. married Mary E. Tarkington abt. 1830.

Teresa Kelley. 5359 Macwood Dr., Dale City, VA 22193

Need parents of Henry Norman, wp 1857. married (1) Elizabeth Brickhouse (1799), (2) Nancy Alexander (1828). Lived Rider's Creek area, Tyrrell. Henry and Elizabeth had dau. Joanna Norman, who m. (1816) Joshua Swain. Were Joanna and Joshua parents of Timothy Swain (1820-1898)??.

D.L. Sullivan. 9425 Mauck Ct., Fairfax, VA, 22032

Nehemiah Norman (d. 1785) had four sons, inc. Nehemiah (2nd) who married Ann Freeman 1790. Was Nehemiah 2nd father of Charles Norman, "Sr."

I need to prove or refute.

Rodney Deshields. P.O. Box 5084, Chesapeake, VA 23324

Will appreciate hearing from any descendant of Daniel Legett (Leget, etc.) Daniel, of Lee's Mill area, was one of our leading Tories (c. 1777) in the War of the Revolution. We already have the COLONIAL RECORDS account and Thomas Blount's brief account.

Ed Norman. P.O. Box 754, Plymouth, NC 27962 793-2427

QUERIES (CONTINUED)

Need information re; 3 volume set of books weitten by a Mrs. Smallwood about a COTTON family.

Any information re: Jemima Iris Cotton b. 11 Jan. 1762 in Bertie Co, NC., d. Sumner Co. TN. May 1821. m. Nathan Edwards in Bertie Co. 5 Sept. 1783 or earlier.

Pat Searight, 6117 Calumet Rd., Amarillo, TX 70106-3513.

Need information re; Gilliland/Gilleland/Gillland/ Gillon family in Washington County early-mid 1800's.

Laura Gilliland Butler. P.O.Box 1363, Quebradellas, Puerto Rico 00678

Need information Zechariah Davenport b. 1774 in NC(per KY census). Parents Jacob & Elizabeth Davenport(from KY death record of Z.D.). m. Jane Douglass 10 Oct. 1799 in Washington Co. VA.Died 15 Oct. 1856(KY death record)

C.M. Davenport. 4124 Quinn Rd., Knoxville, TN 27931

Any information on Daniel Leggett, leading Tyrrell Co. Tory, circa 1777, of Lee's Mill. Conspired to overthrow the revolutionary government, and to restore British rule. Jailed at Edenton. Was he executed? Was the Daniel Leggett, b. 1799 and buried east Millpond area, a son? Grandson-~~son~~? Ed Norman. POB 754, Plymouth, NC 27962.

We are pleased to note an increase of Queries. Keep them coming. For quickest printing, address to Corresponding Secretary, WCGS.

VOLUNTEERS

Loretta Phelps, Chairman, Library Committee, has volunteered to donate time to help researchers at WCL. Loretta will need help. Please contact her so that she can begin to set up a schedule. A few hours a week, by knowledgeable members, will be a great help to the Library staff and to the public.

Thank you,
Ed Norman

Deacon Richard of Peacock
 Brother Peacock was Borned December 1844
 and died October 7 1910 When hostilities
 broke out between the North and South in
 1861 he shouldered his gun and went
 through that bloody struggle he followed
 the and took part in the great battle of
 Gettysburg. After the war was over he
 married Miss Abigail Brown - born
 1860 she was Borned October 23 1844.
 By this union were Borned ten children
 seven girls and three boys two daughters
 and one son. Recked in to the grave.
 The other children are grown and
 married and are doing well. Mrs Peacock
 and all of the children appeared to be
 waited to him as his wife and father.
 D. 11

Washington County
Genealogical Society,
P.O. Box 567,
Plymouth, NC 27962-0567